

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 DPW-01 EUR-25 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01

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O 220220 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS USMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8916

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP FOR MAY 13-19, 1973

THE FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO 19 MAY 73
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0332

E. O. 11652: ADS: DECLAS DECMEBER 31, 1974

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, CA, HU, ID, PL, VS

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SITREP FOR MAY 13-19, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING THE WEEK REMAINED AT
NORMAL POST- CEASEFIRE LEVELS. THE CASUALTY RATIO TURNED MORE
FAVORABLY TO THE GVN. STAFF PLANNING SPAWNED RUMORS OF
IMMINENT PRG TPJMC DEPLOYMENT. THE ICCS IS STILL WITH US.
THE VC ARE ORGANIZING NEW PAPER BATTALIONS. A US/ GVN FPJMT
CASUALTY RECOVERY MISSION TERMINATED MR IV' S FIRST CRASH SITE
SEARCHES. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) MR IV MILITARY STATISTICS FOR
THE WEEK SHOW THAT THE OVERALL LEVEL OF INCIDENTS WAS ABOUT THE
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SAME AS PREVIOUS POST- CEASEFIRE WEEKS. THE KILL RATIO ROSE TO THREE TO ONE IN FAVOR OF THE GVN, MEETING THE REQUIREMENT MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI LEVIED DURING HIS MAY 11 MEETING WITH DIVISION COMMANDERS AND PROVINCE CHIEFS.

(B) ATTACKS BY FIRE CONTINUE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF GVN LOSSES. INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS WERE ESPECIALLY HEAVY IN CHUONG THIEN, THE FOCAL POINT OF VC/ NVA MILITARY INITIATIVE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. ELSEWHERE ARVN SHIFTED FORCES TO STEM INCREASING VC/ NVA ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS IN THE TRA ON DISTRICT OF VINH LONG. THE VINH LONG TERRITORIAL FORCES HAVE SUFFERED MORE THAN THEIR SHARE OF CASUALTIES IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE PERIOD.

3. ICCS: (A) THE QUADRAPARTITE DELTA PEACE- KEEPING BODY CONTINUED TO FUNCTION, CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS AND WRITING REPORTS. DESPITE THE MOTION THERE WAS LITTLE MOVEMENT TOWARD CONVERTING THE ICCS INTO AN EFFECTIVE PEACE- KEEPING MECHANISM. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS CONTINUE TO RESIST CANADIAN ATTEMPTS TO PIN VIOLATIONS ON THE PRG. DESPITE HIGHER HEADQUARTERS ORDERS TO DRAW AWAY FROM THEIR CANADIAN ALLIES AND ADOPT A MORE INDEPENDENT STANCE, REGION VI AND VII INDONESIANS CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES.

(B) SOME CANADIAN MILITARY OFFICERS BELIEVE THAT CANADA WILL REMAIN IN THE ICCS PAST JULY 1. THE CHIEF CANADIAN REGION VII DELEGATE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER MANFRED VON NOSTITZ, IS LESS SANGUINE. HIS VIEW IS THAT THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS WILL NEVER ADOPT AN OBJECTIVE STANCE SO THE ICCS WILL NEVER UNANIMOUSLY AGREE ON A PRG VIOLATION. THE ICCS WAS NOT CREATED TO POLICE ONLY ONE SIDE.

4. TP/ JMC: AN ARVN COLONEL FROM THE SAIGON TPJMC RECENTLY VISITED IV CORPS INSPECTING QUARTERS SET ASIDE FOR THE PRG. HIS VISIT GAVE RISE TO SPECULATION THAT THE COMMUNIST TPJMC TEAMS WERE ABOUT TO DEPLOY. THE IV CBXPS COMMANDER SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPECT THE PRG TO DEPLOY IN JUNE. THERE IS NO FIRM EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN SETTLED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES WHICH WOULD PERMIT EARLY PRG DEPLOYMENT.

5. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES: THE VC ARE CONDUCTING A MILITARY REORGANIZATION (CAN THO 0331). NEW UNITS ARE BEING ORGANIZED
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THROUGHOUT THE DELTA, INCLUDING A REPORTEDLY ALL KHMER UNIT IN VINH BINH PROVINCE. WHILE MOST OF THE NEWLY CREATED UNITS ARE LARGELY ON PAPER, THEY MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE MILIEU. THE NEWLY FORMED BATTALIONS MAY BE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE PRG CLAIM TO INDEPENDENCE FROM ITS NORTHERN ALLIES AND CREATE THE IMPRESSION OF NEW STRENGTH. ALTERNATIVELY, THE PRG MAY PLAN TO TRADE OFF THESE UNITS WITH

THE GVN IF SERIOUS DEMOBILIZATION NEGOTIATIONS OCCUR. A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS THAT NVA SOLDIERS MAY SLIP INTO THE NEW VC UNITS IF THE DRV AGREES TO " WITHDRAW" NVA UNITS FROM THE DELTS, I. E. THE FLAG WOULD COME DOWN AND THE HEADQUARTERS GO HOME BUT THE TROOPS WOULD REMAIN.

6. JCRC: A US GVN FPJMT/ JCRC TEAM CONDUCTED CRASH SITE SEARCHES IN BAC LIEU AND VINH BINH PROVINCES DURING THE WEEK. THE VINH BINH OPERATION WAS A BUST AS NO CRASH SITE COULD BE LOCATED. THE BAC LIEU TEAM PRODUCED MORE RESULTS THAN EXPECTED DUE IN PART TO EXCELLENT GVN COOPERATION AND INITIATIVE. THE TEAM RECOVERED AIRCRAFT PARTS, POSSIBILY TRACEABLE TO A SPECIFIC PLANE BUT DID NOT FIND IDENTIFIABLE HUMAN REMAINS.

WISNER UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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